

Mark 1:43-45

And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." However, he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

Jesus healed this man from his leprosy, and after He did, Jesus gave the man specific instructions what to do next, which were to, *"go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."* And Jesus gave the man these instructions, because it is what God commanded in the law for any who was healed of their leprosy, once again which was to *"show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded"*

So, what does the man do? *"he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter"*. Jesus heals the man, and the first thing he does is choose to be disobedient to what the Lord told him to do, and not only to Jesus, but to God also by not doing what he was supposed to do to complete his cleansing.

† *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest." Leviticus 14:1-2*

Now, before we get too hard on this guy for his disobedience, we also need to look at our own lives as well. How many times have we come away from church and as soon as we get out of the parking lot, we are angry with another driver. Or maybe we are still in the parking lot, and we start up our car and the music starts playing that gives glory to sin and we sit there and sing along and dance in our seat to music that talks about partying, drinking, having sex outside of marriage etc.. yet just ten minutes ago we were singing praises to the Lord.

So, yeah, we have all been disobedient to the Lord right after hearing Him speak to us. But there is a time to tell others about all that Jesus has done for us, but also a time to be obedient to what the Lord tells us to do.

Let's say that you are at work talking about Jesus all the time, and not doing your job, then you are being disobedient to the Lord. How so? Because you are stealing from your boss or the company you are working for, because they pay you to do a job, and not to be an evangelist. If you wait until break or lunch time to tell others about Jesus and all He has done for you, that is bringing glory to the Lord. But if others hear you spending all your time witnessing to others and not working, that does not bring glory to the Lord, because others see you as a lazy, busybody, which does not bring God any glory. Yet you are using the name of Jesus and God as an excuse not to work.

Also, if you think about it, as Jesus gave the man these instructions, they also included being a witness for Him (Jesus). Read it again: “*as a testimony to them*” Who is “*them*”? The priests (*show yourself to the priest*), and the testimony was in letting them know that Jesus healed him, but also he was the evidence that Jesus healed him, and if you read in the Old Testament, the priest had to proclaim that the man as healed.

† **Leviticus 13:37** *But if the scale appears to be at a standstill, and there is black hair grown up in it, the scale has healed. He is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.*

The same is true for us. We tell people that we are a Christian and that Jesus has changed our lives, but it's our actions and change in our lives that is the evidence of Jesus cleansing us from our sins. Just as the healed leper was a witness of Jesus cleansing him.

† **Deuteronomy 32:3 (NLT2)** *I will proclaim the name of the LORD; how glorious is our God!*

† **1 Chronicles 16:23** *Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.*